veil cast by the original Inconscience is too thick
for the Mind to pierce and it is behind this veil
that is hidden the secret origination of what is
manifested; there are seated the truths and powers
^underlying the phenomena and processes that appear
to us in the material front of Nature. To know
with greater certitude we must follow the curve of
evolving consciousness until it arrives at a height
.and largeness of self-enlightenment in which the
primal secret is self-discovered; for presumably it
must evolve, must eventually bring out what was
held from the beginning by the occult original
•Consciousness in things of which it is a gradual
manifestation. In Life it would be clearly hopeless
to seek for the truth; for Life begins with a formula-
tion in which consciousness is still submental and
therefore to us as mental beings appears as incon"
.scient or at most subconscious, and our own investi"
.gation into this stage of life studying it from outside
•cannot be more fruitful of the secret truth than
our examination of Matter. Even when mind
•develops in life, its first functional aspect is a
mentality involved in action, in vital and physical
needs and preoccupations, in impulses,

desires,
.•sensations, emotions, unable to stand back from these
things and observe and know them. In the human
mind there is the first hope of understanding,
•discovery, a free comprehension; here we might
.seem to be coming to the possibility of self-
knowledge and world-knowledge. But in fact our
J-nind can at first only observe facts and processes